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PM 0015-2177

January 30, 1984

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Dear Senator D'Amato:

86 I am responding to your inquiry enclosing correspondence from regarding Raoul Wallenberg.

The Department of State, Congress, and the President share a strong concern about the fate of Raoul Wallenberg and we are taking every appropriate opportunity to make this known to the Soviet authorities. As you know, in 1981 President Reagan signed a bill which made Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of the United States. Making Raoul Wallenberg an honorary American citizen was an important symbolic act. It let the entire world know how much we admire Raoul Wallenberg's courage, how much we are inspired by his dedication to humanity and humanitarian principles, and how much we deplore his unjust and illegal punishment by the Soviet Union. Following the signing ceremony which made Raoul Wallenberg an honorary American, we made the Soviet Government formally and officially aware of our continued dedication to finding out the truth about Raoul Wallenberg's fate. We have not received a response from the Soviet Government, but we shall continue in our effort to resolve the tragic mystery of Wallenberg's fate until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory clarification of their actions in this case.

We have pressed our effort both on a bilateral basis and at international fora. Most recently, on January 17, 1984, Secretary Shultz began his remarks at the opening of the Conference on Disarmament in Europe by stating that "it is particularly appropriate here in Stockholm to recall the heroic deed of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who, in the two years of World War II saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from annihilation." On the same day, the Department of State issued a press statement on the occasion of the anniversary of Wallenberg's disappearance 38 years before, noting that "the Soviet Union has a moral obligation to put to rest, once and for all, the questions that continue to arise about Raoul Wallenberg" and calling on the Soviets to provide a full accounting of his fate.

In 1982 our representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Mr. Michael Novak, urged the Soviet Union to make humanitarian gesture, which would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely, a renewed search and full report, which may lay questions to rest; or else, in the best of all possible outcomes, result in the discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the heroes of our time." At the 1983 session of the Commission, Alternate Representative Walter Berns again raised the issue of Raoul Wallenberg, whom he termed "one of the great

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The Honorable
Alfonse D'Amato,
United States Senator

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heroes of World War II, and one of the war's most noble spirits." Mr. Berns suggested that the UN Human Rights Commission's working group on disappearances be authorized to "make a renewed search and a full report" on the case "involving the most famous of all disappeared persons."

We have also continued to work closely with the Government of Sweden to try to confirm reports that have come to light about Wallenberg. To date, we have been unable to confirm any of the reports suggesting that Wallenberg might still be alive. We intend to continue to cooperate fully with the Government of Sweden and all other interested parties in a persistent effort to obtain information that will clarify the fate of this brave man. As Ambassador Max Kampelman noted at a CSCE plenary session in Madrid, the Wallenberg case is one that "will not go away;" the Soviet failure "to appreciate the human factor which is symbolized by the Wallenberg case" only serves to stimulate further interest. The United States Government will continue to express concern over the Wallenberg case at every appropriate opportunity, both publicly and in our diplomatic communications with the Soviet Union.

If we can be of assistance to you in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

W
W. Tapley Bennett, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

Enclosure:
Correspondence Returned.

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